

CLAIMS

What I claim is:

1. A method of resetting an active emissions system error indicator associated with a vehicle, said method comprising performing a first requesting step and a second requesting step until said active emissions system error indicator resets in response to at least one of said first or second requesting steps, and wherein:

said first requesting step comprises requesting a first type of information from a vehicle computer associated with said vehicle; and

said second requesting step comprises requesting a second type of information from said vehicle computer.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of performing a first requesting step and a second requesting step until said active emissions system error indicator resets comprises performing said first and second requesting steps in a pre-determined sequence.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of performing a first requesting step and a second requesting step until said active emissions system error indicator resets comprises performing said first and second requesting steps at about the same time.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first requesting step is executed electronically.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said second requesting step is executed electronically.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first type of information comprises emissions-related information.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said second type of information comprises emissions-related information.

8. The method of Claim 6, wherein said first type of information is information that has been acquired from one or more sensors within said vehicle.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said second type of information is information that has been acquired from said one or more sensors.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein each of said one or more sensors is adjacent said vehicle's engine.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first type of information is information that has been acquired from a first oxygen sensor within said vehicle.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein:
said vehicle comprises an engine comprising a first cylinder bank; and
said first oxygen sensor is disposed adjacent said first cylinder bank, upstream of a catalyst associated with said first cylinder bank.

13. The method of Claim 11, wherein:
said vehicle has an engine comprises a first cylinder bank; and
said first oxygen sensor is disposed adjacent said first cylinder bank, downstream of a catalyst associated with said first cylinder bank.

14. The method of Claim 11, wherein said second type of information is information that has been acquired from a second oxygen sensor within said vehicle.

15. The method of Claim 14,
said vehicle comprises an engine that comprises a first cylinder bank; and
said first oxygen sensor is disposed adjacent said first cylinder bank, upstream of a catalyst associated with said first cylinder bank; and
said second oxygen sensor is disposed adjacent said first cylinder bank, downstream of said first catalyst.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein:
said method further comprises a third requesting step, said third requesting step comprising the step of requesting a third type of information from said vehicle computer; and
said third type of information is information that has been acquired from a third oxygen sensor within said vehicle.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein:
said vehicle has an engine that comprises both a first cylinder bank and a second cylinder bank;
said first oxygen sensor is disposed adjacent said first cylinder bank, upstream of a catalyst associated with said first cylinder bank;
said second oxygen sensor is disposed adjacent said first cylinder bank, downstream of said first catalyst; and
said third oxygen sensor is disposed adjacent said second cylinder bank, upstream of a catalyst associated with said second cylinder bank.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein:
said method further comprises a fourth requesting step, said fourth requesting step comprising the step of requesting a fourth type of information from said vehicle computer; and
said fourth type of information is information that has been acquired from a fourth oxygen sensor within said vehicle.

19. The method of Claim 18, wherein:
said vehicle comprises an engine comprising both a first cylinder bank and a second cylinder bank;
said first oxygen sensor is disposed adjacent said first cylinder bank, upstream of a first catalyst that is associated with said first cylinder bank;
said second oxygen sensor is disposed adjacent said first cylinder bank, downstream of said first catalyst;
said third oxygen sensor is disposed adjacent said second cylinder bank, upstream of a second catalyst that is associated with said second cylinder bank; and
said fourth oxygen sensor is disposed adjacent said second cylinder bank, downstream of said second catalyst.
20. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first requesting step is executed using a scan tool.
21. The method of Claim 1, wherein said scan tool is a bidirectional scan tool.
22. The method of Claim 20, wherein said second requesting step is executed using said scan tool.
23. The method of Claim 22, wherein said scan tool is a bidirectional scan tool.
24. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first requesting step comprises performing at least one non-continuous test on an engine within said vehicle.
25. The method of Claim 24, wherein said non-continuous test provides test results from a catalyst monitor.
26. The method of Claim 25, wherein said non-continuous test provides test results from an OBD-2 monitor.

27. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

said first requesting step comprises a step of requesting a first set of information from said vehicle computer;

said method comprises receiving said first set of information from said vehicle computer;

said second requesting step comprises a step of requesting a second set of information from said vehicle computer after receiving said first set of information from said vehicle computer; and

said method comprises receiving said second set of information from said vehicle computer.

28. The method of Claim 27, wherein said first set of information comprises the results of an oxygen sensor test.

29. The method of Claim 27, wherein said first set of information comprises the results of a non-continuous test.

30. The method of Claim 27, wherein second requesting step is performed about 60 seconds or less after said step of receiving said first set of information from said vehicle computer.

31. The method of Claim 30, wherein said second requesting step is performed about 30 seconds or less after said step of receiving said first set of information from said vehicle computer.

32. The method of Claim 30, wherein:

said method further comprises a third requesting step that comprises requesting a third set of information from said vehicle computer; and

said third requesting step is performed about 60 seconds or less after said step of receiving said second set of information from said vehicle computer.

33. The method of Claim 32, wherein:

said second requesting step is performed about 30 seconds or less after said step of receiving said first set of information; and

said third requesting step is performed about 30 seconds or less after said step of receiving said second set of information.

34. The method of Claim 1, wherein:

said method comprises receiving said first type of information from said vehicle computer; and

said method comprises executing said second requesting step after receiving said first type of information from said vehicle computer.

35. A method of resetting one or more active emission system error indicators associated with a vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

placing said vehicle on a dynamometer; and

while said vehicle is on said dynamometer, requesting two or more different types of information from a computer within said vehicle until at least one of said active emission system error indicators resets.

36. The method of Claim 35, further comprising requesting said two or more different types of information in a pre-determined sequence.

37. The method of Claim 35, wherein a scan tool is used to perform said step of requesting two or more different types of information from said computer.

38. An electronic device for resetting an active emissions system error indicator associated with a vehicle, said electronic device being configured for:

performing a first requesting step and a second requesting step until said active emissions system error indicator resets in response to at least one of said first or second requesting steps, and wherein:

said first requesting step comprises requesting a first type of information from a vehicle computer associated with said vehicle;

said second requesting step comprises requesting a second type of information from said vehicle computer; and

said electronic device is configured for performing said first requesting step and said second requesting step substantially automatically until said active emissions system error indicator resets.

39. The electronic device of Claim 38, said electronic device being configured for:

determining whether said active emissions system error indicator has reset; and

in response to determining that said active emissions system error indicator has reset, stopping execution of said first and second requesting steps.

40. The electronic device of Claim 38, wherein said step of performing a first requesting step and a second requesting step until said active emissions system error indicator resets comprises performing said first and second requesting steps in a pre-determined sequence.

41. The electronic device of Claim 38, wherein said step of performing a first requesting step and a second requesting step until said active emissions system error indicator resets comprises performing said first and second requesting steps at about the same time.

42. The electronic device of Claim 38, wherein said first type of information is information that has been acquired from one or more sensors within said vehicle.

43. The electronic device of Claim 38, wherein said second type of information is information that has been acquired from said one or more sensors.

44. The electronic device of Claim 38, wherein said first requesting step comprises performing at least one non-continuous test on an engine associated with said vehicle.

45. The electronic device of Claim 38, wherein:
said first requesting step comprises a step of requesting a first set of information from said vehicle computer;
said electronic device is configured for receiving said first set of information from said vehicle computer;
said second requesting step comprises a step of requesting a second set of information from said vehicle computer after receiving said first set of information from said vehicle computer; and
said electronic device is configured for receiving said second set of information from said vehicle computer.

46. The electronic device of Claim 45, wherein second requesting step is performed about 60 seconds or less after said step of receiving said first set of information from said vehicle computer.

47. The electronic device of Claim 45, wherein:
said method further comprises a third requesting step that comprises requesting a third set of information from said vehicle computer; and
said third requesting step is performed about 60 seconds or less after said step of receiving said second set of information from said vehicle computer.

48. A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for:
performing a first requesting step and a second requesting step until said active emissions system error indicator associated with said vehicle resets in response to at least one of said first or second requesting steps, and wherein:

said first requesting step comprises requesting a first type of information from a vehicle computer associated with said vehicle;

said second requesting step comprises requesting a second type of information from said vehicle computer; and

said computer-executable instructions include instructions for performing said first requesting step and said second requesting step substantially automatically until said active emissions system error indicator resets.

49. The computer-readable medium of Claim 48, further comprising computer-executable instructions for:

determining whether said active emissions system error indicator has reset; and

in response to determining that said active emissions system error indicator has reset, stopping execution of said first and second requesting steps.

50. The computer-readable medium of Claim 48, wherein said step of performing a first requesting step and a second requesting step until said active emissions system error indicator resets comprises performing said first and second requesting steps in a pre-determined sequence.

51. The computer-readable medium of Claim 48, wherein said step of performing a first requesting step and a second requesting step until said active emissions system error indicator resets comprises performing said first and second requesting steps at about the same time.

52. The computer-readable medium of Claim 48, wherein said first type of information is information that has been acquired from one or more sensors within said vehicle.

53. The computer-readable medium of Claim 48, wherein said second type of information is information that has been acquired from said one or more sensors.

54. The computer-readable medium of Claim 48, wherein said first requesting step comprises performing at least one non-continuous test on an engine associated with said vehicle.

55. The computer-readable medium of Claim 48, wherein:
said first requesting step comprises a step of requesting a first set of information from said vehicle computer;
said computer-readable medium stores computer-executable instructions for receiving said first set of information from said vehicle computer;
said second requesting step comprises a step of requesting a second set of information from said vehicle computer after receiving said first set of information from said vehicle computer; and
said computer-readable medium stores computer-executable instructions for receiving said second set of information from said vehicle computer.

56. The computer-readable medium of Claim 55, wherein second requesting step is performed about 60 seconds or less after said step of receiving said first set of information from said vehicle computer.

57. The computer-readable medium of Claim 55, wherein:
said method further comprises a third requesting step that comprises requesting a third set of information from said vehicle computer; and
said third requesting step is performed about 60 seconds or less after said step of receiving said second set of information from said vehicle computer.